

**THE WEATHER:**  
Fair tonight with lowest temperature about 24 degrees. Tuesday cloudy and unsettled. Moderate north and northeast winds. Temperature at 8 A. M. 26.

# SENATE ASKED TO PROBE KNICKERBOCKER TRAGEDY

## Lax Building Inspection Hinted; 108 Dead

### 130 HURT; CAUSE OF LAST BODY TRAGEDY REMOVED IS SOUGHT FROM RUIN BY INQUIRY

**Rescue Forces Abandon Work  
As Search Reveals No  
More Buried.**

By Clifford Meredith.

Daylight today brought with it a semi-final in the grimest tragedy fate has yet played in Washington, the death list of the Knickerbocker disaster having reached 108, which is believed to be the total toll of life taken when the walls of the theater crashed Saturday night.

At least 130 more lie in Washington hospitals, their limbs badly crushed, some awaiting amputation, some rallying through miraculous blood transfusions, but many believed to be beyond the remedy of surgical aid.

#### Last Body Out.

At 6 o'clock this morning Engineer Commissioner Keller, satisfied that the combined valiant effort of military, civic and municipal forces had netted all possible results, ordered troops to quit their search for bodies in the ruins. Every portion of the theater has been covered in the last thirty-six-hour struggle to save lives and recover dead bodies.

All of the dead victims have been identified. The last body taken from the jumbled mass in the death pit was identified ten minutes after recovery at 9 o'clock last night. All bodies have been claimed by relatives or friends, and are now in the hands of undertakers.

#### Believe Work Completed.

With the slanting pit of the once palatial picture house cleared by rescue gangs who struggled throughout two nights in the glare of searchlights and flares, officers in charge of the excavating work declared they believed the last of the victims had been removed.

The rear of the theater, near the main entrance on the Eighteenth street side—the last pocket of debris—was reached at 3

**Engineers Advance 4 Theories  
as to What Might Have  
Hastened Collapse.**

Col. Charles Keller, engineer commissioner, today stated that faulty construction must have played a part in the collapse of the Knickerbocker roof.

What caused the roof of the Knickerbocker Theater to collapse?

Four theories are advanced by construction engineers.

1. Faulty construction.
2. Deterioration of construction material.
3. Vibration caused by street cars, handclapping, music, movements.
4. The immense weight of a great pile of snow which had accumulated near the rear of the building.

Building Inspection Department of the District states that the plans and specifications for the building, as submitted by the construction engineer, were considerably more than adequate. The steel girders holding the roof were required to be four times as strong as is necessary to hold the roof, plus an additional pound per foot for snow or rain.

The concrete material used in the roof was required to be two-and-one-half times as strong as was necessary for the same purpose.

Whether or not the building was erected according to specifications the building inspectors are unable to state. It was pointed out today that with the small force permitted the building inspector it is virtually impossible to check construction against specifications.

**Poor Concrete Suggested.**  
Due to the large amount of construction in the city at the time this building was erected it was considered probable that the inspector was on the job only a small part of the day and that the concrete may have been mixed in the proper proportion or that it may have been very badly mixed.

Engineers who inspected the ruins of the theater this morning stated that the concrete in many places showed heavy and unusual deterioration. Some of it had crumbled almost like powder, and it was possible to break off chunks with the hand. Concrete, engineers state, should increase in tensile strength for five years.

The vibration theory is given little credence by engineers of the District or the experts of the Bureau of

### Final Corrected List of Dead

Work of Clearing the Wreckage From the Knickerbocker Has Been Completed, Presumably All of the Bodies Have Been Recovered, and Officials Announce the Positive Identification of All of the Dead.

- Mary E. Atkinson, address unknown.  
Albert Baker, Calvert street.  
A. J. Barchfeld, former Congressman from Pittsburgh, Pa., 1945 Calvert street N. W.  
Miss Barchfeld, 1945 Calvert street N. W.  
Joseph W. Beal, musician, 1488 Chapin street N. W.  
Archibell Bell, 2117 Bancroft place, employe of War Department.  
Miss M. C. Bickel, 1839 Nineteenth street.  
William I. Bickle, 1639 Nineteenth street.  
T. A. Bourne, 2027 Hillyer place N. W.  
C. C. Brainerd, 2039 New Hampshire avenue N. W., Washington correspondent of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle.  
Mrs. C. C. Brainerd.  
William N. Camby, Woodward Building, employed at Middaugh & Shannon's. Home in Sandy Spring, Md.  
Wilfred Brousseau, 1912 Sixteenth street N. W.  
Albert Buehler, Portner Apartments.  
Capt. and Mrs. R. H. Conroy Vance, Fredericksburg, Va.  
Mrs. B. H. Covall, 2409 Eighteenth street N. W.  
William M. Crocker, Courtland Apartments.  
W. M. Crawford, the Corcoran Apartments.  
Vincent Dauber, 1800 Belmont street.  
Miss Clara Dorch, 1656 Euclid street, N. W.  
Miss Helen Dorsch, 1656 Euclid street, N. W.  
Thomas F. Dorsey, 2524 Seventeenth street, apartment 25.  
Kirkland Duke, 1719 Riggs place.  
Margaret Dutch, twenty-five years old, 1740 Euclid street northwest; employed Adjutant General's Department; home in Ludington, Mich.  
Guy S. Eldridge, 1824 Biltmore street N. W.  
A. G. Eldridge, 1733 Twentieth street, N. W.  
Mrs. A. G. Eldridge, 1733 Twentieth street.  
S. H. Ernst, 1926 Biltmore street. Home, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
L. M. Farr, 1109 F street N. W.  
Mrs. Virginia Bianchi Feraud, 2800 Ontario road northwest.  
Christian Fiege, 1010 Eighteenth street northwest, member of Knickerbocker Theater orchestra.  
Thomas Flemming, 1861 Wyoming avenue.  
John P. Fleming, an assistant examiner, Patent Office, 1861 Wyoming avenue.  
Mary Lee Fleming, 1861 Wyoming avenue, sister of above.  
Esther Foster, 1713 Lamont street N. W.  
Mrs. Mary Forsythe, 1802 Belmont street.  
G. S. Freeman, Lexington, Ky., violinist in orchestra.  
Mrs. Daisy Garvey Bowden, 2129 Eighteenth street.  
Mrs. Clyde M. Gearhart, 1624 Eye street northwest.  
Mrs. M. Gerhart and son, address unknown.  
Mrs. Vera Hall, address unknown.  
Douglas Hillyer, 2021 Hillyer place N. W.  
William G. Hughes, 2503 Champlain street N. W., naval constructor.  
Daniel K. Jackson, fifty, broker, 2701 Connecticut avenue.  
John M. Jeffries, 1767 Massachusetts avenue N. W.  
Elizabeth Jeffries, 1716 Massachusetts avenue N. W.  
Oskar G. Kanston, 2516 Seventeenth street N. W.  
Mrs. Oskar G. Kanston, same address.  
Dorothy Kanston, aged fifteen, same address.  
Aulyn Kanston, same address.  
Howard G. Knessel, vice president Semmes Motor Co., 5201 Colorado avenue northwest.  
Cutler Laffin, sixteen years old, page in House of Representatives, 1858 Ontario road northwest.  
Miss Nannie Lee Lambert, 2117 Bancroft place.  
Paulus Lambly, address unknown.  
Leroy Lehner, 2151 California street.  
Mrs. Leroy Lehner, 2151 California street.  
David Lyman, 1718 Twenty-first street N. W.  
Wyatt McKimmie, Burlington Hotel.  
Julian McKinney, 1821 Adams Mill road.  
Russell Maine, address unknown.  
Mrs. Russell Maine, address unknown.  
Mrs. Gertrude Martindale, 2633 Adams Mill road.  
Agnes Mellon, 1437 Belmont street N. W.  
Mrs. Gene Mirsky, Chastleton Apartments.  
Scott Montgomery, 1824 Belmont road; died at Walter Reed.  
Miss Veronica Murphy, 1860 California street N. W.  
James W. Murray, The Plains, Va.  
E. Natiello, conductor of Knickerbocker orchestra; died at Emergency Hospital from injuries.  
Mrs. D. F. O'Donnell, 1731 Columbia road Northwest.  
D. F. O'Donnell, 1731 Columbia road N. W.  
Miss Vivian Ogden, 3121 Mt. Pleasant street, N. W.  
Corry Pesson, 500 Calvert street N. W.  
Lois Pitcher, 3910 McKinley street; G. W. U. student.  
Miss Hazel Price, Beverly Courts.  
Mrs. Marie Russell, 2475 Eighteenth street N. W.  
W. B. Sammon, G. W. U. student, Kammeral, Wyo.  
W. L. Schofield, Danville, Va.  
Mrs. Cora C. Segourney, 2701 Connecticut avenue N. W.  
Dr. James Shea, 1919 Calvert street northwest; home in South Hadley Falls, Mass.  
Vernon Sproul, nephew of Congressman Sproul, 2400 Sixteenth street.  
Clarence B. Stephenson, 49 Franklin street, Boston, Mass., Washington, Y. M. C. A.  
Louis W. Strayer, 1837 California street, N. W.  
Victor M. Sturgis, student at Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service.  
Gertrude Taylor, 1605 Hobart street.  
Gladys Thoms, 1713 Lamont street N. W.  
Christine Thompson, address unknown.  
William Tracey, 501 Rhode Island avenue N. W.  
Col. Charles C. Tucker, 2117 Connecticut avenue.  
Mrs. Charles C. Tucker, wife of Colonel Tucker.  
Jacob Urdong, 2312 Twelfth street northwest.  
Mrs. Jacob Urdong, 2313 Twentieth street.  
Louis F. Valentine, 1860 Columbia road northwest.  
Mrs. Louis F. Vallyatine, 727 Thirteenth street.  
Mildred Walford, 1727 Riggs place northwest.  
Miss M. E. Walsh, address unknown.  
D. N. Walsh, address unknown.  
William Walters, student Georgetown Medical School, 2009 M street, from Brooklyn, N. Y.  
H. W. D. Watell, address unknown.  
Mrs. William E. R. Warner, 2514 Ontario road.  
Capt. G. R. Warner, Q. M. C., 1861 Wyoming avenue northwest.  
Mrs. John L. Walker, 2109 Eighteenth street northwest.  
John L. Walker, 2109 Eighteenth street northwest.  
Mrs. Anna D. Weason, wife of Col. C. W. Weason.  
Ivan J. White, the Portner.

### GRAND JURY VISITS SCENE OF DISASTER AS QUIZ IS OPENED

While the National Capital mourned today for its score of dead in one of the most terrible theater disasters on record, the United States Senate was asked to inaugurate a sweeping investigation.

Within a few minutes after the Senate met today, Senator Arthur Capper (Rep.) of Kansas introduced a resolution asking the Senate to undertake an investigation not only to fix responsibility for the Knickerbocker tragedy, which cost 108 lives, but also to investigate rumors that there exists "collusion among constructors and building inspectors to evade the law."

#### SWEEPING PROBE BEGINS.

In an effort to ascertain what caused the roof of the theater to fall every agency of the municipal and Federal government that possesses the necessary machinery was set in motion today.

Each probe will be conducted independent of other ones in an effort to get at once at the cause of the catastrophe. If it is found out that some one's carelessness was responsible for the crash the person will be punished to the full extent of the law, the law officers of the Government declared.

The District Commissioners, through the building inspector's office, the municipal architect's office and the police and fire departments will make a sweeping investigation.

The Federal grand jury will make an investigation. Coroner J. Ramsay Nevitt will conduct an inquiry and inquest.

Reports that the walls had fallen today were broadcast throughout the city, but there was no truth to it, and the District officials said that there was not much danger of their falling.

Inspector of Buildings John P. Healy, today ordered the four walls of the Knickerbocker Theater torn down at once.

"While there is no immediate danger of the walls caving in we are having them torn down as a precaution," said Healy. "The walls are not sound."

Healy said today that the roof of the theater is known as a "truss roof" and that practically every theater in town is built with the same kind of roof.

#### OTHER HOUSES THOUGHT SAFE.

An investigation of the plans of other theaters is being made today. The inspector said that he intends to compare roof plans of the Knickerbocker with other theaters.

"I do not think there is the slightest danger in any other theater in Washington," declared Healy. "However, we intend to make a most thorough inspection and no theater that is the least bit suspicious will be allowed to stay open."

"The truss roof, which is the standard for big theaters, is the safest known to the engineering world. I have never heard of any other truss roof falling in."

A hasty survey of the plans, according to Healy, show that all building requirements had been met.

Healy, who lives at 1802 Vernon street northwest, was at home when the crash came. Hearing fire engines pass his house he put on his coat and hat and followed them. He remained at the theater all Saturday night, a greater part of yesterday and was there today.

"When I reached the theater I thought my daughter